

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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P R 071215Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3996

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9349

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: EMBASSY COMMENT ON THE NEW CABINET'S POLICY STATEMENT

REF : FBIS D070419Z JAN 74

SUMMARY: THE REFERENCE CARRIES THE FULL TEXT OF THE SECOND SANYA GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF POLICY WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY JUNE 7. IT IS AN UNIMPEACHABLE STATEMENT OF IDEALS WHICH CONTAINS SOMETHING TO SATISFY JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY, BUT ONLY LIMITED PROGRESS ON ANY OF THESE GOALS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE PERIOD BEFORE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SANYA'S POLICY STATEMENT REFLECTS THE PRIME MINISTER'S
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AWARENESS THAT THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY DEMANDS THAT

THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO RIGHT MANY OF THE SOCIAL ILLS AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF LONG STANDING THAT THAILAND FACES. BUT THE STATEMENT IS SO BROAD AS TO BE USELESS AS A GUIDE TO WHERE THE GOVERNMENT WILL FOCUS ITS ENERGIES. MOREOVER, IT SETS SUCH LONG RANGE IDEALS AS TO MAKE REALISTIC PROGRESS EVALUATION ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE. MOST OF THE ITEMS REQUIRE LARGE AMOUNTS OF EITHER MONEY OR MAGIC TO EFFECT. BOTH ARE SCARCE COMMODITIES JUST NOW.

2. HAVING SAID ALL THIS, THE STATEMENT DOES MAKE CLEAR A NEW FOCUS ON THE FARMER, AND A NEW WILLINGNESS TO HELP HIM WITH HIS MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS; LOW FARM GATE PRICES, EXPENSIVE AND LIMITED CREDIT, AND OFTEN UNFAIR EXPROPRIATION OF HIS LAND. IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN ACTUALLY EFFECT A LASTING CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF URBAN-RURAL INTERESTS IN FAVOR OF THE LATTER, THAILAND AS A WHOLE WILL BENEFIT.

3. POINT 3.3. SPEAKS OF STREAMLING THE MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY. THE MERE ADMISSION THAT SUCH A MODERNIZING IS NECESSARY IS A HEALTHY BEGINNING, BUT THIS ALSO WILL BE A TOUGH JOB.

4. POINT 3.17 TALKS BRAVELY OF IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND DISCIPLINE, AND PREVENTING AND SUPPRESSING CORRUPTION. THIS ONE TOO IS UNLIKELY TO GET FAR, BUT THIS GOVERNMENT DOES HAVE THE CHANCE TO START IF IT CHOOSES TO DO SO.

5. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THERE ARE NO NEW DEPARTURES.

6. IN SHORT, SANYA'S STATEMENT IS EASY FOR EVERYONE TO AGREE WITH AS A FINE PRESCRIPTION FOR THE OTHER FELLOW. AS THE STATEMENT IS WRITTEN, EARNEST IMPLEMENTATION WOULD GORE JUST ABOUT EVERY SACRED COW IN THE KINGDOM. WE PREDICT NO DANGER TO THE BOVINE DIVINITIES OF THAILAND. KINTNER

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